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Message Text

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20
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 NIC-01 EB-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 /116 W
---------- 112713
R 022037Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0511
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 16187

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UR, FR
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT OF FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER TO MOSCOW

REF: (A) PARIS 15834 (NOTAL); (B) PARIS 15220

1. QUAI DIRECTOR FOR ASIAN AFFAIRS FROMENT-MEURICE CONFIRMED TO CHARGE JULY 2 REPORT IN LE MONDE THAT FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES WILL VISIT MOSCOW DURING THE FIRST HALF OF JULY. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, THE SOVIETS WOULD BRIEF THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON THE RESULTS OF THE US-SOVIET SUMMIT AS THEY DID A YEAR AGO DURING BREZHNEV'S STOPOVER IN PARIS AFTER HIS VISIT TO THE US. "LE MONDE" CLAIMS FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW VIMONT IS CURRENTLY IN PARIS TO PREPARE FOR THE MEETING.

2. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR EAST EUROPE TOLD US RECENTLY CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT ANOTHER FRENCH-SOVIET MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

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OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES UNDER THE TERMS OF THE OCT. 13, 1970 PROTOCOL WAS DUE THIS YEAR AND HE HINTED BROADLY THAT IT MIGHT COME BEFORE THE AUGUST VACATION PERIOD. HE ADDED THAT THERE COULD WELL BE A SUMMIT MEETING BETWEEN BREZHNEV AND PRESIDENT GISCARD THIS FALL. HE NOTED THAT IF THE MEETING WERE TREATED AS STATE VISIT, IT WOULD BE GISCARD'S TURN TO GO TO THE SOVIET UNION, BUT IF IT WERE TO BE A WORKING MEETING ON THE PATTERN OF PITSUNDA, BREZHNEV WOULD COME HERE.

3. COMMENT: THUS FAR SINCE THE ELECTION, THE FRENCH HAVE PUT THEIR RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW ON A BACK BURNER. HOWEVER, IF THE MAJOR CONTRACT FOR NUCLEAR REACTORS IS INDEED SIGNED DURING THE MEETING OF THE GRANDE COMMISSION IN PARIS JULY 10-12 (REFTEL A), THIS WOULD GIVE THEM A MAJOR BOOST AND COULD SET THE SCENE FOR A SAUVAGNARGUES-GROMYKO ENCOUNTER. BY BRIEFING THE FRENCH ON THE US-SOVIET SUMMIT, THE SOVIETS COULD HOPE TO COUNTERBALANCE THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO PARIS AND AVOID CRITICISM OF THE SORT MADE BY THE PREVIOUS FRENCH GOVERNMENT THAT IT WAS NOT LIVING UP TO THE CONSULTATION PROVISIONS OF THE OCT. 13, 1970 PROTOCOL.

4. WE CONTINUE TO HEAR REPORTS THAT THE SOVIET EMBASSY HERE IS CONCERNED OVER THE GENERAL ORIENTATION OF THE GISCARD GOVERNMENT, AND THE EVIDENT STRAIN BETWEEN MOSCOW AND THE PCF INTRODUCES AN ADDITIONAL COMPLICATING FACTOR FOR THE SOVIETS (REFTEL B). HOWEVER, PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON BOTH SIDES HAVE MAINTAINED FIDELITY TO THE GOAL OF CONTINUED COOPERATION. AS FAR AS THE FRENCH ARE CONCERNED, WE BELIEVE THEY WILL SEEK TO MAINTAIN TIES WITH MOSCOW ON AN EVEN KEEL, AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT, CONCENTRATING ON COMMERCIAL MATTERS, BUT AVOIDING ANY MAJOR NEW POLITICAL INITIATIVES.
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